

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 18, 2006

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## SENATOR JACOBS URGES LIFE- SAVING EQUIPMENT IN ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) has introduced legislation that will require all emergency first-responders to carry Automated External Defibrillators or AEDs as part of their emergency response equipment. Defibrillators administer an electric charge to correct rapid and irregular heart contractions.

Currently, only about 80 percent of Michigan’s basic life support and limited advanced support vehicles are equipped with AEDs. There is no requirement that the vehicles carry the life-saving equipment.

Jacobs, who was responsible for the recently signed law requiring defibrillators in health club facilities, was amazed to learn during her research that there is no requirement for first-responders to carry AEDs. Last year Jacobs amended legislation to require a departmental review in order to determine the current numbers of AEDs carried on Medical First Response, Basic and Limited Advanced Life Support vehicles. Research indicated that while EMS vehicles within fire departments do carry AEDs, private EMS agencies are less likely to carry them.

“Automated defibrillators can be found in corporate and governmental offices, shopping centers, airports, restaurants, hotels, sports stadiums, schools and universities, community centers, and any other public gathering place where the risk of cardiac arrest is likely,” Jacobs said. “In some cities all police vehicles carry AEDs. The fact that one out of five Michigan life support vehicles do not carry this proven life-saving device is simply unacceptable.”

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*State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.*